

## How can I be involved with my child's school?

While home involvement is most important, your involvement with the school is also critical to your child's success. How can you get more involved with your child's school life? There are a number of ways:

- ✓ Join the parent-teacher association
- ✓ Attend open houses and back-to-school nights
- ✓ Read school newsletters
- ✓ Participate in after-school events
- ✓ Get to know your child's teachers
- ✓ Support your child in school activities
- ✓ Volunteer to assist with school functions and extracurricular activities



YOU are the biggest influence on your child's life. . . use that influence to put your child on the pathway to success!

Visit your child's school frequently. Call and make an appointment to talk to your child's counselors and teachers. By visiting the school, you can discover:

- ✓ How your child is doing on classwork
- ✓ How your child interacts with others
- ✓ If the teacher is having disciplinary problems with your child
- ✓ What activities you can do at home to help your child in school

### **Pennsylvania-American Career Resource Network**

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## Why should you be involved with your child's education?

Research shows that parental support is more important to school success than a student's IQ, economic status or school setting. Parents influence everything from their child's reading level to test scores. The benefits of parental involvement include:

- ✓ Higher grades and test scores
- ✓ Better behavior and more positive attitudes
- ✓ Higher graduation rates
- ✓ Better attendance at school
- ✓ More homework completed
- ✓ Fewer placements in special education
- ✓ Greater enrollment in postsecondary education



Set high expectations for your child's school performance, and your child will be more likely to meet those expectations. Help your child set reasonable goals and work toward them. Tell your child that you believe in his or her abilities and that is why you expect success.

## What are the best ways to be involved?

Parental involvement begins at home. By creating a positive home environment and encouraging communication, you are stimulating the learning process.

Some simple ways to promote learning are to:

### 1. Encourage Reading and Writing

Studies show that children who read at home perform better in school. Keep books, magazines, and newspapers in your home. Help your child get a library card. Discuss what your child reads. Read to your child. Encourage your child to write notes to friends and relatives. Have your child keep a journal.

### 2. Make School a Priority

The first step to your child's school success is for you to be supportive of school and education. If school is not important to you, it will not be important to your child. You can show your child that school is important by:

- ✓ Speaking positively about your child's teachers and counselors
- ✓ Talking to your child about the benefits of education
- ✓ Making sure your child goes to school on time, every day
- ✓ Attending school functions, including parent-teacher conferences and open houses
- ✓ Answering phone calls and notes from your child's teachers

## What can I do at home to help my child succeed?

There are many ways to be involved in your child's school success in the comfort of your own home.

- ✓ Make sure your child has a good breakfast and arrives at school well-rested. This helps your child stay alert and engaged.
- ✓ Help your child create a routine for completing homework by setting a regular time and providing a quiet place to complete assignments.
- ✓ Ask your child what he or she learned in school each day.
- ✓ Limit the amount of time your child watches television or plays computer/video games. Monitor what they watch and play.
- ✓ Praise and encourage your child often.
- ✓ Celebrate your child's successes. Everyone has strengths, so help your child focus on the things he or she does well.



Staying involved with your child helps build self-esteem, which in turn aids school success.

- ✓ Use car time to talk with your child. Turn off the radio.
- ✓ Plan to eat at least one meal a day together as a family.
- ✓ Look for things to do together as a family.

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Nearly 78% of junior high students and 48% of high school students want their parents to talk to them more about school.

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